

Appl. No. 10/021,524  
Reply to Office Action dated January 3, 2006

Docket No. 1232-4799

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12 and 14-23 are pending. Please cancel claims 5, 15 and 18-23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 12 and 14 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
  - an original convey unit adapted to move an original in a sub-scanning direction;
  - an image reading unit adapted to read the original while moving the original by using said original convey unit and output image data;
  - an abnormality detection unit adapted to detect ~~an abnormality on a reading position~~ of abnormal data output from said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original; and
  - a control unit adapted to limit ~~an original reading operation of an original having a~~ predetermined size in a main-scanning direction ~~which is permitted to be read by~~ said image reading unit while moving the original by using said convey unit in accordance with the position of the ~~abnormality~~ abnormal data detected by said abnormality detection unit in the main scanning direction.
2. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity and a position of ~~image~~ the abnormal data read by said image reading unit ~~to detect the data as an abnormality in the main scanning direction~~.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity, a position, and a width of the ~~image~~ abnormal data ~~to detect the data as an abnormality in the main scanning direction~~.

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5.-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An image reading method of reading an original while moving the original in a sub-scanning direction and outputting image data, comprising:

detecting ~~an abnormality on a reading position~~ abnormal data before reading the original; and

limiting ~~an original reading operation of an original having a predetermined size in a main-scanning direction which is permitted to be read in accordance with the position of the detected abnormality~~ abnormal data in the main scanning direction.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the abnormality detection, continuity and a position of ~~read image~~ the abnormal data are detected ~~to detect the data as an abnormality in the main scanning direction~~.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity, a position, and a width of ~~read image~~ the abnormal data are detected ~~to detect the data as an abnormality in the main scanning direction~~.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image reading method defined in claim 11.

17. (original) A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 16 as a computer-readable program.

18.-23. (canceled)